

**CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION OF FRESNO COUNTY**

**Monthly Meeting  
August 7, 2002 - 7:00 p.m.**

**Children & Families Commission Offices  
University of California Building  
550 E. Shaw  
Fresno, CA**

**CONSENT AGENDA ITEM NO. 1a**

**Recommendations:**

Approve Commission Minutes – July 3, 2002 Meeting

**MINUTES OF THE JULY 3, 2002 MEETING**

**Present:** Chair Bob Waterston, Vice Chair Luisa Medina, Secretary/Treasurer Gary Carozza, Commissioners Marion Karian, Kathleen McIntyre, LeeAnn Parry, Gary Zomalt; Executive Director Steve Gordon, Commission Counsel Nannette Stromberg

**Absent:** Commissioners Roseanne Lascano (excused) and Oscar Sablan (excused)

Chair Bob Waterston called the meeting to order at 2:45 p.m.; a quorum was established. He recessed the meeting to closed session. The regular meeting was reconvened at 3:05 p.m.

- A. Report of Closed Session:** Chair Waterston reported that the Commissioners reviewed the performance of Executive Director Steven P. Gordon, determined he has met all expectations pursuant to contract terms and approved an increase in annual compensation.

Chair Waterston announced a request for a change in the agenda (Updates, Item 7c), and introduced Lilia Chavez, Chair, Fresno County Interagency Council, for an update on the Children Count! The Well Being of Children in Fresno County: 2001 Report Card.

**7. Updates**

**c. Children Count!: 2001 Report Card**

Chavez thanked the Commission for its financial support of the 2001 Report Card and reviewed the concept of the report. She stated that the intent of the report card is to track how the county is doing in providing for the well-being of children and to provide consistent data for policy makers to help them in their decision making as they affect the children of Fresno County. Five outcome areas are reported, covering Education, Health Care, Quality of Life, Safety and Economics, and the Interagency Council has made a five-year commitment to continue updating and reporting this data. She said during the course of developing the publication, it was discovered that while data does exist it is not always consistent and because of the inconsistencies, the decision was made not to include specific data in many cases; some of these gaps will be addressed in the 2002 publication. As follow-up, several groups are adopting the report and using it for tracking their program(s) and service(s), the Interagency Council has set up some task teams to begin work on the 2002 report and look at long-range goals in a strategic way to help identify the most urgent and problematic indicators and follow-up with specific action plan(s) to address these issues.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Medina asked if an assessment has been made on how the Commission's Strategic Plan fits into the outcome areas of the report. Chavez responded that no assessment has been made in that area to date.

**Public Comment:** The question was asked where copies could be obtained; Chavez responded that copies could be obtained by calling the Interagency Office at 488-1710, and is also available on the Fresno County, United Way and Fresno Business Council's websites.

## **1. Public Hearing on 2002-2003 Strategic Plan - Children & Families Commission of Fresno County**

Kendra Rogers, Program Operations Coordinator, reviewed the process required for the annual review of the strategic plan and stated that with the Commission's discussion at the June meeting and presentation to the Board of Supervisors meeting on June 18, it was now being brought to the required public hearing prior to Commission final approval.

Commissioner Medina commented that she was still troubled on the priority area of "Children Removed or At-Risk of Being Removed from the Home", stating that she would like to see a broader perspective of early intervention services which would strengthen families thus avoiding the need for out of home placement. Commissioner Parry supported this view and emphasized the need for preservation of the family unit, and suggested that the use of "preservation of family" or "family preservation" would be better phraseology. Commissioner Carozza asked if it was the intent of the Advisory Committee to single out this issue as a departure from the other priorities which by and large emphasize preservation of the family unit. Special Projects Coordinator Brian Mimura said that one of the criteria used in the prioritization process was the issue of severity and that was the reason that the Advisory Committee "singled out" issue of out of home placement for special attention as a separate priority need; Advisory Committee members Marquis Nuby and Wilma Hashimoto concurred. Mimura further suggested that perhaps under the overarching criteria affecting all priorities an additional statement regarding prevention, early intervention and the strengthening of the family unit could be added. By consensus, Commissioners agreed with this suggestion.

Commissioner Parry questioned the meaning of "accessible" category under the values and guiding principles, and wondered if "services" should be added to provide more clarity; Rogers responded that the introductory statement for the values and guiding principles applied to all seven areas and includes all programs and services supported by Proposition 10 funds and agreed that adding "services" would further clarify the issue of accessibility.

Chair Waterston questioned whether the scope of the Commission was being expanded to include funding for programs targeted at families. Director Gordon responded that Prop. 10 funds pieces of programs – those pieces which impact the 0-5 population – and may include other family members (parents, older siblings) as they affect the lives of the 0-5 population. Gordon also assured the Commission that within the funding mechanisms the Commission has approved, the means for addressing requests for funding are established and that the roll-out of the funding opportunities will be presented later in the agenda.

## **2. Consent Agenda**

- a. Approve Commission Minutes – June 5, 2002 (Gordon/Manelis)
- b. Receive Financial Report for May, 2002 (Gordon/Higginson)
- c. Adopt FY2002-03 Strategic Plan for Children & Families Commission of Fresno County (Gordon/Rogers/Mimura)

- d. Authorize Commission chair to execute an investment agreement, once negotiated and approved by Commission Treasurer, for the Commission's Sustainability Fund with Bank of the West, DBA United California Bank and authorize Commission treasurer to transfer a minimum of \$7 million from the County of Fresno Treasury to the established investment account with Bank of the West DBA United California Bank for the Children's Sustainability Fund)

Commissioner Carozza asked that Item (c) be removed from the Consent Agenda. Commissioner Parry asked that Item (a) be removed from the Consent Agenda.

**Public Comment:** None

***Commissioner Medina (Carozza second) moved to approve the remaining items (b and d) on the consent agenda as presented. Motion approved unanimously.***

**A: Approve Commission Minutes – June 5, 2002**

Commissioner Parry asked that the points made by the public be included in the discussion on the "Children Removed from the Home" issue on page 2.

***Commissioner Parry (McIntyre second) moved to accept the minutes as revised. Motion approved unanimously.***

**C. Adopt FY2002-03 Strategic Plan for Children & Families Commission of Fresno County**

Program Operations Coordinator Kendra Rogers reviewed the process for annual review and adoption of the Strategic Plan. She stated that our County ordinance requires that the Commission annually review the strategic plan and forward it for review and comment to the County Board of Supervisors. This was done at the Supervisors' June 18 meeting and the required public hearing was just concluded. The Commission is now asked to adopt the FY02-03 Strategic Plan for the Children & Families Commission of Fresno County.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Medina stated that under the topic of "Increasing Children's Access to Health Care" (p. 44), although the UCLA research cited is used as the standard, it was based on a very small sample and is not a true reflection the number of children without health care insurance, which is estimated to be more than the 16% cited in this study. Commissioner Carozza concurred with these comments, and stated that information pertaining to the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal eligible population is also not a good indicator of number of children without health care, as well as reimbursement amounts to physicians from the Healthy Families and Medi-Cal programs. He said the larger issue than health insurance coverage is access to care and that the state budget proposes that the reimbursement level be rolled back to 1985 figures.

Commissioner Carozza said he did not disagree with Commissioners Medina and Parry comments on the "Children Removed from and At-Risk of being removed from the Home" but his interpretation was that the Advisory Committee was singling out this issue because this is an area of severe need. Advisory Committee members Wilma Hashimoto and Marquis Nuby concurred with Commissioner Carozza's assessment.

***Commissioner Carozza (McIntyre second) moved to adopt the FY 2002-03 Strategic Plan for the Children & Families Commission of Fresno County as presented. Motion approved unanimously.***

**3. Informational Update on Funding Mechanism Roll-Out**

Special Projects Coordinator Brian Mimura reviewed the next phase of the roll-out for the three funding mechanisms. A brochure announcing the funding opportunities has been designed and just gone to the printer. This brochure will include information on the process and format for submitting "Letters of Intent" for proposals. A "Kick-Off" meeting is scheduled for July 25 at 9 a.m. for anyone interested in funding from the Commission. The Commission will be kept informed of additional steps in the process of granting funds for 02-03 projects.

Commissioner Carozza asked if it was the intent for the Commissioners to see all "Letters of Intent" submitted or whether staff would review these; Mimura responded that staff would review these but that all formal proposals for funding would be submitted to the Commissioners for their review and approval.

**4. Approve Evaluation and Data Management MOUs**

Director Gordon reviewed the collaborative partnership for evaluation and data management activities that the Commission has had for the last six months with six valley counties (Fresno, Madera, Kings, Tulare, Inyo and Kern,), with Kern County acting as the fiscal agent. Kern County CFC has contracted with the Applied Research Center at CSU-Bakersfield for evaluation services and with the Corporation for Standards and Outcomes (CS&O) for data management. The current contract between Kern County CFC and ARC and KCCFC and CS&O ends June 30, and a new contract has been negotiated beginning July 1, 2002 for FY02-03. Each county involved in the partnership pays a share of the overall contractual amount, based on the percent of live births of all each county involved (Fresno Commission share is 38.3% of total costs). CFCFC staff has been pleased with this partnership and the services provided and recommend that the partnership be continued.

Gordon presented for approval renewals of the MOUs with Kern County for both evaluation (Fresno County share not to exceed \$659,202, and data management (Fresno County portion not to exceed \$366,463). These amounts are included in the FY02-03 budget.

**Discussion:** Commissioner Carozza asked how variables would be tracked. Dr. Ken Nyberg, ARC, stated that variables can be tracked any way each county desires, and the overall plan is to have data linked from county-specific to valley/regional to state and ultimately to national statistics in all variable areas where such data exists.

**Public Comment:** None

***Commissioner Carozza (Parry second) moved to approve the renewal of the MOUs for evaluation and data management with Kern County Children & Families Commission as presented. Motion approved unanimously.***

**5. Set Time for August, 2002 Meeting**

Director Gordon presented for approval a change in the August Commission meeting time. He said that this stemmed from the discussion at the June meeting where the desire to occasionally hold meetings in rural areas and/or in the evening. Since the agenda for the August meeting will include recommendations for child care providers' mini-grant awards, it was felt appropriate to hold this meeting in the evening.

***Commissioner Carozza moved (Parry second) to establish the meeting time for the August 7 meeting as 7 p.m. Motion approved unanimously.***

**6. Select Strategic Plan Artwork**

School Readiness Coordinator Anne Bouhebert reviewed the process introduced at the June meeting for soliciting children's artwork to be included in the 02-03 Strategic Plan. She stated over 60 entries were received, and 10, five from the 0-5 age group and five from 6 and over are the finalists. The Commission was asked to choose one drawing for the cover (overall) and one from each of the two age groups; the artist of the overall selection will receive a \$50 savings bond and the other two selected will receive \$25 savings bonds. By consensus, it was decided that the drawing chosen for the cover should be from the 0-5 age group. By consensus, the drawing by Justin Babauta (age 3) was selected as the cover drawing, with those of Paulina Garcia (age 5) and Katlin Dickson (age 11-1/2) selected as age group winners.

**UPDATES / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**7. a. Mini-Grant Update**

Rogers said that the deadline for the first round for Child Care Providers applications was June 21 and approximately 190 applications were submitted, with 40 in Spanish; these have gone out to readers for review while staff is doing an internal review. \$568,000 is being requested of the \$250,000 budgeted. Staff will bring recommendations to the Commission in August for awards for this first round as well as how to handle applications for the second round, due in mid December.

Rogers said that the second quarter deadline for the General Mini-Grants was June 28, and approximately \$115,000 in requests were submitted, with only approximately \$95,000 left in this budget category. Staff will bring recommendations for second quarter awards and future funding to the August meeting.

Rogers said that awards for the first round of the C.A.R.E.S. education stipend program have been made, with 225 awards made from Commission funds, totaling \$436,350 and approximately 150 awards from the state AB212 funds, totaling \$287,000. July 15 is the deadline for the next round of funding.

**b. School Readiness Update**

School Readiness Coordinator Anne Bouhebert stated that Mayfair, Del Rey & Burroughs Elementary Schools have been approved by the State Commission for funding. The first installment of funds has been requested by the state for these schools and should be received in the next couple weeks. Staff is currently working with nine schools on applications to be submitted later this year and/or early in 2003.

Commissioner Carozza asked whether staff was encouraging schools without Healthy Start programs to apply for funds. Rogers replied that a self-assessment tool has been developed by staff that all schools are required to complete and those schools range from those ready to work on applications to those currently without the required foundation for an application. Staff is working with all schools to get them to the point where they can submit for funding.

**8. Public Comment**

Commission Medina distributed copies of a letter sent to the County Board of Supervisors from the Foster Care Standards and Oversight Committee concerning the budget cuts proposed in the area of foster care. She asked for support from the general community and encouraged them to attend the county budget hearing on July 25.

Director Gordon announced that the statewide advertising campaign for branding has been launched, and that the new logo, etc., is "First Five". He played a tape of one of the commercials currently running statewide.

9. **Adjournment: *Commissioner Carozza (McIntyre second) moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:25 p.m.***